

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action objects to claims 3, 4, and 9-13, and rejects claims 3-12 as to matters of form. Applicants have amended or cancelled each of the identified claims, eliminating the bases for such objection and rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of such objection and rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claim 1, 2, and 13 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 2, and 4-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,582,768 in view of JP '432. The Official Action separately rejects claims 3-9 under the same doctrine over claims 1, 2, and 4-7 of the '768 patent in view of the same Japanese reference, and further in view of MANDAI et al.

Applicants have amended claim 1 in such a matter as to overcome the rejection by incorporating the features of claim 10. Each of the above-identified claims ultimately depends from independent claim 1 and implicitly recites the features thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(f) because the applicants did not invent the subject

matter. While the applicants strenuously disagree with such characterization of the rejected claims, the rejection is in any event moot in light of the amendment of claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 10. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action further rejects the claims as follows: claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or (e) as being anticipated by MANDAI et al. U.S. 2002/0023584; claims 2-9 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over MANDAI '584, and further in view of JP '432; claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over TOMARU in view of JP '432; and claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over TOMARU in view of JP '432, and further in view of MANDAI et al. As noted above, applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of allowable claim 10. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants have modified language in claim 11 and on page 35 of the specification to clarify that the water whose temperature is used to regulate the temperature of the die is contained inside the two blocks. This feature is described throughout the specification as originally filed, including at least the passage in the second full paragraph on page 24 of the original specification.

The Official Action explicitly states that claims 10-12 are allowable but for their dependence from rejected base claims and

the identified formal bases for rejection and objection. In light of the amendment of claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 10, as well as the amendment of each of claims 11 and 12 into independent form, applicants believe that all claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action, and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires further clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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